

Meeting Notes

Meeting Name Building Tomorrow Together: Ward 5 Middle Grades and Beyond
Date September 29, 2011
Time 5:30 – 7:30pm
Location Luke C. Moore High School

Summary of Worksheets Submitted:

Question 1 (Part A): What other benefits do you believe are associated with the three grade configuration models?

Issue	Comments
Option 1: Stand- Alone Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ This option provides time to put a successful model in place and grow as needed. It could be a model school to generate new interest in middle school in MS education within our ward.▪ How will this be any different from the failed middle school in Ward 5?▪ Don't you need to strengthen the elementary schools?▪ The chance to start from scratch with a rigorous curriculum and nurturing school culture.▪ We want a middle school and want to help. Please take advantage of the parents and ask for help---we want to assist.▪ Physical plants are conducive to the needs and distractions are reduced.▪ Facility options, diversity of class options and segregating age groups for socially appropriate activity.▪ You could phase in grade 6 then grade 7 and 8 to relieve some of the financial constraints.▪ I believe that Ward 5 can benefit from all three configurations a stand-alone middle school, a few K-8's that are effective and elementary schools. Our children deserve all three configurations.

Option 2: 2-3 Larger Education Campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We should keep the successful the Pk-8 models and if they do not work, let them go and stop allowing kids to deal with shortcomings. ▪ It's pretty clear the EC idea is a failure. ▪ Is there evidence that any of these schools are working?
Option 3: 2 Education Campuses (Pre-school to 8 th Grade and 6 th – 12 th grade model)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not very happy about a 6-12 model. I would need to see data from a successful model. ▪ I am never sending my kid to a 6th -12th grade high school. I also probably wouldn't send my preschooler to a school that has 8th graders but what really matters is quality, diversity and curriculum. ▪ I think we should explore the 6-12 grade EC option. As Mr. Davis said, it seems to be working at CHEC.

Question 1 (Part B): What other challenges do you believe are associated with the 3 grade configuration models?

Issue	Comments
Option 1: Stand- Alone Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Getting DCPS to agree to the idea and securing a space chosen with parents input.
Option 2: 2-3 Larger Education Campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choosing which one to keep and close and merging schools.
Option 3: Education Campuses (pre-school to 8 th Grade & 6 th -12 th Grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I need data for the 6-12- model before I can answer. ▪ Convincing parents that two ECs are going to be successful.

Additional Feedback:

Question 2: What are the top three factors that you use in deciding where your child will go to school?

Issue	Comments
Top Three Factors in Making Your Decision to Choose a School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Diversity (racial and socio-economic)▪ Quality▪ Languages▪ Special curriculum such as Montessori▪ Resources▪ Class size and location▪ Preparation for high school▪ Student teacher ratio▪ Arts and languages▪ Cleanliness and safety▪ Enrollment—I see two ECs with 50% capacity and I will not send my children there.▪ Confidence in the quality of the school—judging by educational offerings and success of children.▪ Confidence that parents will be involved.▪ Academic rigor▪ More funding for Ward 5 school a basic curriculum such as librarians, science teachers, music classes for enrichment▪ The method of teaching level and emotional commitment to student.▪ Course offerings▪ Supportive environment▪ Broad curriculum offerings▪ Rich Extracurricular options▪ Credible and rising test scores▪ Strong curriculum which includes languages and science▪ Enthusiastic engaging teachers and administrators

Question 3: What else do you want us to know?

Additional Feedback	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I don't know understand what's going to be different this time around. DCPS got rid of the Ward 5 middle schools three years ago. Most people thought these schools were failures. What will be done to make sure a new middle school doesn't repeat the same failures. ▪ Maybe DCPS should just admit that it can't be successful in Ward 5 and hand all school over to charters. ▪ Charter schools dump the kids and keep the cash when it comes to students who are discipline issues. ▪ I don't see how we can continue with the present EC experiment—at least in Ward 5. We'll need to consolidate some of our schools; four of the ECs are under 70% capacity and none of them have reading proficiency above 50%. A stand-alone middle school does offer an exciting chance to start from scratch. ▪ Can we consolidate the 3-5 schools in Ward 5 but keep the money saved from the consolidation in ward 5? ▪ Giant schools that don't work are unattractive. A small school that parents can be involved in is much more likely to attract new parents. ▪ Listen to the voices of dissention here—there already is consensus around the model presented by the Ward 5 Council of Education- a strong middle school, elementary and high school. You have to have good schools to attract people—curriculum first, not just structure. ▪ This meeting in my opinion was a waste of two hours. I thought we came to hear next steps not to hear more of the same conversation. ▪ Due to low test scores, my son who is two years old will not go to Ward 5 schools. The school in my district doesn't have a full-time Liberian or science teacher. The library is outdated and isn't stocked with books I refuse to send my child to a school in an environment that is less enriching than my home. I have more books in his library that the school.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding formulas may need to be tinkered with so Ward 5 schools get more money per student, temporarily until enrollment rises. ▪ Please consider a 5-8 middle school.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deciding which to keep and close and merging the other schools.